

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, March 2, 2015

The Center of Clayton – Multipurpose Room A

Members present: Ira Berkowitz, Cynthia Garnholz, Michelle Harris, David LaGesse, Jeanne Most, Eric Schneider and Mark Stapleton

Absent: Darryl Higuchi, Jane Klamer, Becky Patel and Melanie Tamsky

Also Present: Patty DeForrest, Wayne Dunker, Dan Krewson Toni Siering and Denise Ucinski

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the February meeting were approved as corrected.

Addresses from the Audience:

There were no addresses from the audience.

Newman Green:

Ms. Carrie Coyne, from SWT, presented the Newman Green conceptual drawings. The simple enhancements to the circle included: trees, berms, improved grasses, irrigation and a walkway. Mr. Schneider asked if there was an opportunity for a drinking fountain. Ms. Coyne said it is a great place to have one and will look into the idea. Mr. Berkowitz stated he liked the fact that the area will remain park like. Additional trees would not be added to the plaza area by Clayton High School because two good trees and a bike rack are already there. The goal was not have a lot of additional landscaping but rather to improve the turf and the overall appeal of the property. Mr. Newman is happy with this design.

Ms. DeForrest said annual maintenance would be approximately \$8,000 per year. City staff will handle tree maintenance and grass cutting at the Newman Green. Further, the area will be informal and the enhancements will attract more people to enjoy it; Clayton High School classes currently already use the circle as well as the SummerQuest camp program

Public Works would be responsible for the crosswalk and other items related to the road. It was also suggested to consider an additional crosswalk for residents walking from the condos across the street. The project should be completed by the end of summer. Mr. LaGesse made a motion to approve the Newman Green design as presented to the Commission. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Shaw Park Ice Rink Update:

Mr. Berkowitz explained that a working committee was formed after the April election to discuss possible options for the ice rink. The committee assessed the history of the rink and developed site and funding options. Ice rink discussions included community interest details and finances. Ms. Harris mentioned that the BOA is going to discuss the ice rink again at their March meeting; therefore she would like to know the Commissions thoughts about the options. She will share the information with the BOA.

The Shaw Park Ice Rink options included: abandoning the site, demolishing for green space, maintaining existing rink, renovate the existing rink, rebuild the ice rink facility only (open just for the winter season) build a multi-use facility without a roof (operating nine to ten months of the year) and develop the original "square" design. The project costs ranged from \$30,000 to \$12,500,000. Shaw Park Ice Rink is fifty-four years old, ice system components are 13-23 year past their life expectancy, operational expenditures have averaged \$211,000 per year over the past three years, and usage has increased 70% since 2009 to over 17,000 visitors this past season.

Short term recommendations included conducting a market study update (last one completed in 2006), with an estimated cost of \$5,000. Also, gathering public input via the annual survey in fall 2015, by having more specific ice rink questions.

Mr. Stapleton suggested the possibility of a design where the roof could be added when funding became available. Mr. Berkowitz mentioned researching a retractable roof again as a less expensive option. The type of roof chosen for the original design was selected for a multitude of reasons including, the view of the rink from condo units across the street, view from the street and having something iconic in Shaw Park.

Mr. LaGesse asked if putting rink improvements on the ballot again was an option. Ms. Harris stated that the survey would be done first. The City would like to avoid having to raise taxes in order to do some improvements; however a vote could be taken in order to acquire community members' opinions about the projects importance.

Most Commission members were in favor of having a multiuse facility that could be utilized throughout the year and generate additional revenue. Mr. LaGesse expressed his uncertainty of \$500,000 per year for debt service being spent on the ice rink when these funds might be better suited for a different, more valuable project.

There was not a recommendation made from the Commission as further discussion would be needed to determine their recommendation. Further study of Parks & Recreation needs and community interest in retaining the rink should take place before a recommendation can be made.

Director's Report:

Ms. DeForrest mentioned that a dog park meeting was held prior to the Commission meeting. They discussed the MSD project. Ms. Siering will talk about the meeting next month.

The City renewed the Frontenac Racquet Club contract. An agreement with the City and the donor for the north entrance is being worked on. In order to ensure the community is aware of the north hill project and its design, a six month public engagement process will take place.

Cupid's Ball went well. Holiday tours at the Hanley House turned out great as well.

Old Business / New Business:

No old or new business was reported.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted By: Denise Ucinski